

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 RSR-01 CU-04 OPR-02 SY-10 OC-06 CCO-00 USSS-00

OMB-01 AID-20 EUR-25 NIC-01 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 HEW-08

PC-04 SSO-00 AGR-20 /240 W
----- 119267

P R 011315Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7044

INFO USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KHARTOUM 1956

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS SU

SUBJ: NIMAIRI DEMONSTRATIONS

REF: KHARTOUM 1940

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. PRO-NIMAIRI DEMONSTRATIONS FAILED PRODUCE
EVEN ORGANIZED TURNOUT, BUT NEITHER WERE MOSLEM BROTHERHOOD
STUDENTS ABLE DEVELOP POPULAR SUPPORT. GOS ANNOUNCES ECONOMIC
ACTIONS. NEXT TEST WILL PROBABLY BE SEPT 8 WHEN NIMAIRI
SCHEDULED RETURN.

2. AUG 31 SSU MEETING. "TRIUMPHANT" ARRIVAL GOS SUPPORT
FROM WAD MEDANI (REFTTEL) AND SUBSEQUENT RALLY AT SSU HDQTRS
WAS LIMITED TO ABOUT 1,000 PERSONS WHO HEAD SPEECHES BY SSU
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LIMINARIES SUCH AS KHARTOUM SEC MAHDI MUSTAFA, GOV.

BLUE NILE PROVINCE KHARRAR AHMED KARRAR, SOUTHERNER ANDREW WEYOU, SSU ACTING SEC GEN JAAFAR ALI BAKHEIT AND GOS VICE PRESIDENT BAGHIR, SPEAKERS PROCLAIMED ETERNITY MAY REVOLUTION AND LOYALTY OF VARIOUS GROUPS, CASTIGATED AND CALLED FOR DESTRUCTION MOSLEM BROTHERHOOD COMMUNIST ALLIANCE AND EXTOLLED BENEFITS NIMAIRI GOVERNMENT AND SSU. MOST COGENT SPEAKER (AS USUAL) WAS VP BAGHIR WHO POSED RHETORICAL QUESTION FOUND IN MOST SUDANESE MINDS "WHAT WOULD BE SUDAN'S DESTINY IF GROUPS LIKE MOSLEM BROTHERS, COMMUNISTS, TRAITORIAL PARTIES OR RELIGIOUS SECTS TAKE POWER? WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO SOUTHERN REGION?" HE ALSO BECAME FIRST GOS LEADER CANDIDLY ADMIT SHORTAGES FOOD SUPPLIES, BUT STRESSED COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS EXISTED IN SUDAN BEFORE MAY REVOLUTION WHICH IS MAKING EFFORT TO SOLVE THEM. HE THEN CALLED ON CITIZENS TO "...SACRIFICE AND TOLERATE INCONVENIENCES". IN WHAT IS ALSO RESPONSIVE CHORD FOR SUDANESE, HE COMMENTED (ADDRESS WAS BROADCAST) THAT SUDANESE HAVE "...LOST MUCH TIME IN DIFFERENCES AND FIGHTING AGAINST EACH OTHER".

3. SEPT. 1 RALLY. "MAJOR" PRO-NIMAIRI RALLY SEPT 1 WAS UTTER FAILURE. SPEECHES WERE DELAYED AS RESULT CHARGE TOWARD PALACE AND REVIEWING STAND BY SEVERAL HUNDREDS OF ROCK-THROWING STUDENTS. POLICE RESPONDED WITH BARRAGE OF RIFLE FIRE (INTO AIR) WHICH EFFECTIVELY SCATTERED GROUP (AS WELL AS MOST OF THOSE PRO-NIMAIRI SUPPORTERS AT SITE OR ON THEIR WAY). ADDITIONAL CONFRONTATIONS TOOK PLACE NEAR RAILROAD STATION (APPARENT STUDENT ASSEMBLY POINT) REQUIRING SEVERAL TEAR GAS REACTIONS BY POLICE. MOST OF "CONTROL," HOWEVER, WAS LEFT IN HANDS AND STAVES OF PRO-NIMAIRI "HOME GUARD" AND "MAY PIONEER" YOUTHS WHO ROAMED IN BANDS SHOUTING PRO-NIMAIRI SLOGANS AND ATTACKING STUDENTS OR SYMPATHIZERS WHERE FOUND. INDIVIDUALS WERE PURSUED AND OCCASIONALLY BEATEN, BUT YOUTH LEADERS TOOK EFFECTIVE STEPS TO SHIELD APPREHENDED WHO WERE HUSTLED INTO POLICE CARS. ONE OBSERVED STUDENT ATTEMPT AT CONSTRUCTING A ROADBLOCK WAS QUICKLY OVERCOME. POLICE AND TROOPS VERY MUCH IN APPEARANCE THROUGHOUT, BUT REMAINED FOR MOST PART IN TRUCKS. RALLY AT ITS HEIGHT HAD AT MOST 2,000 (MANY SOUTHERNERS) AND PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED

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MARCH TO "OCCUPY" UNIVERSITY WAS CANCELLED.

4. THE SPEECHES. SPEAKERS AT RALLY INCLUDED MAHDI MUSTAFA, SSU DEPSEC GEN ABUL GASSIM AND VP BAGHIR. ABUL GASSIM REPEATED EARLIER STATEMENTS BY URGING "MASSES WHO HAD RECEIVED THEIR POWER FROM MAY REVOLUTION" TO "SEEK OUT AND PUNISH THE FACISTS". HE ALSO ACCUSED FORMER TRADITIONALIST PARTIES BY NAME (UMMA, NUP, ETC.) AS

MASTERMINDING "PLOT" AND THAT FOOD SHORTAGES WERE CAUSED BY MERCHANTS ACTING UNDER OPPOSITIONIST ORDERS. VP BAGHIR, IN WHAT COULD BE ANOTHER EFFECTIVE SPEECH, JUSTIFIED NIMAIRI'S ABSENCE ON MATTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WELCOMED LIBYA'S SEPT 1 REVOLUTION (THIS REFERENCE IS PUZZLING UNLESS IT MEANT TO INDICATE GOS DOES NOT HOLD QUDHAFI RESPONSIBLE FOR CURRENT EVENTS), STRESSED (IN CONTRAST TO ABUL GASSIM) THAT THOSE ARRESTED WOULD BE PUNISHED BY LAW (ALSO A STATEMENT DESIGNED TO REASSURE SUDANESE AGAINST THE SUMMARY EXECUTIONS WHICH OCCURRED ON BOTH SIDES DURING 1971 COUP-COUNTERCOUP) AND REVIEWED AND PLEDGED GOS EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE THEREUPON ANNOUNCED INCREASE IN PRODUCER WHEAT PRICES FROM LS 40 PER TON TO LS 60 AND THAT SIMILAR INCREASES WOULD BE MADE IN GROUNDNUTS, RICE AND SESAME. FOR CONSUMERS, HE SAID PRICE OF SORGHUM WOULD BE STABILIZED AND THAT VARIOUS COMMODITIES VALUED AT OVER LS 60 MILLION WERE CURRENTLY IN STORAGE SO SHORAGES NEED NOT BE FEARED. IN BID FOR PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORT, HE PROMISED INVESTMENT CREDITS WOULD BE AVAILABLE AND THAT CUSTOMS AND LICENSING REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE EASED. HE ADMITTED ONE STUDENT KILLED BUT CLAIMED IT WAS PRO-NIMAIRI STUDENT WHOSE BODY HAD BEEN MISTREATED BY OTHER STUDENTS UNTIL RECOVERED BY ARMY. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED KHARTOUM UNIVERSITY WOULD BE REOPENED UNDER A "PROPER ENVIRONMENT" (IMPLYING ADMINISTRATIVE AND FACULTY FIRINGS AND INDIVIDUAL STUDENT "NO DEMONSTRATION PLEDGES").

5. OTHER EVENTS. ALL POST SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN SUDAN ARE NOW CLOSED INCLUDING KHARTOUM TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AND CAIRO UNIVERSITY ("VOLUNTARY SUSPENSION"). WE HAVE CONFIRMED REPORTS SOME MOSLEM BROTHERHOOD LEADERS URGED MOSQUE-GOERS TAKE ANTI-GOS ACTION AFTER FRIDAY SERVICES. CONFIDENTIAL

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SOME CONFUSION ALSO ENGENDERED BY APPARENT READING BY IMAMS OF PREVIOUSLY PREPARED GOS MINRELIGION STATEMENT COMMEMORATING BATTLE OF KARRARI (BRITISH DEFEAT OF MAHDIST STATE) CALLING UPON SUDANESE TO SACRIFICE THEIR BLOOD FOR THEIR COUNTRY AS OF OLD. ACCORDING BEST EMBASSY KNOWLEDGE, CASUALTIES DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE AUG 29 AMOUNT TO ONE STUDENT KILLED (CRAWLING UNDER PALACE WALL) AND THE ONE SOLDIER (REFTEL. SEVERAL SCORES OF STUDENTS AND ON-LOOKERS RECEIVED BROKEN LIMBS AND OTHER INJURIES. FRITTS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KHARTOUM 1956

6. COMMENTS:

A. FAILURE PRO-NIMAIRI DEMONSTRATIONS. GOS FAILURE GET IMPRESSIVE TURNOUT AT EITHER SSU EVENING RALLY OR, MORE IMPORTANTLY, SELF-PROCLAIMED MAJOR RALLY ON SATURDAY IS DEFINITE PRESTIGE LOSS, MUST BE SERIOUS EMBARRASSMENT TO SSU ORGANIZERS AND A "VICTORY" FOR MOSLEM BROTHERHOOD. EMBASSY INITIAL ASSESSMENT IS THAT POOR TURNOUT DUE TO POOR ORGANIZATION, LACK OF TIME, APATHY BY CIVIL SERVANTS AND OTHERS (WHO WERE GIVEN A HALF-HOLIDAY FOR THE EVENT), MOSLEM BROTHERHOOD INTIMIDATION AND A DESIRE TO AVOID BECOMING PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN VIOLENCE (ESPECIALLY FOLLOWING A VOLLEY OF RFLE FIRE).

B. PROSPECTS. PROSPECTS ARE FOR PROCKETS OF DISRUPTION
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AND VIOLENCE OVER NEXT FEW DAYS AS MOSLEM BROTHERHOOD
AND STUDENTS (MOST OF WHOM ARE STILL IN TOWN BECAUSE OF
TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS) CONTINUE ATTEMPT TO INSTILL 1964-
RMINISCENT MOMENTU. POSSIBLE FOCAL POINT COULD BE
SEPT 3 WHEN GOS HAD PLANNED BATTLE OF KARRARI HOLIDAY AND
CELEBRATIONS. THIS COULD NOW BE DANGEROUS IN VIEW ITS
EMOTIONAL CONNOTATION TO ALL SUDANESE AND THE MAHDIST
GLORIES OF THE ANSAR. WE UNDERSTAND CLEBRATIONS MAY
BE POSTPONED. FOR A CERTAINTY, GOS WILL ATTEMPT PULL OUT
ALL STOPS TO WELCOME NIMAIRI BACK TO SUDAN ON SEPT 8 FROM
HIS THREE-WEEK AFRICAN TOUR. OPPONENTS COULD RECEIVE
BOOST WERE THEY ABLE DISRUPT THAT HOMECOMING AS EFFECTIVELY
AS THIS MORNING'S RALLY. SPONTANEOUS POPULAR SUPPORT IN
FAVOR EITHER GOS OR MOSLEM BROTHERHOOD-STUDENTS IS UNLIKELY.
THUS, AS LONG AS ARMY HOLDS FIRM FOR NIMAIRI, GOS IS NOT
IN SERIOUS DIFFICULTY.
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